



THE

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Playground

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MAKING THEIR OWN PLAYGROUND—ERECTING TETHER-BALL POLE IN THE GARDEN
WASHINGTON, D. C.

624 MADISON AVENUE

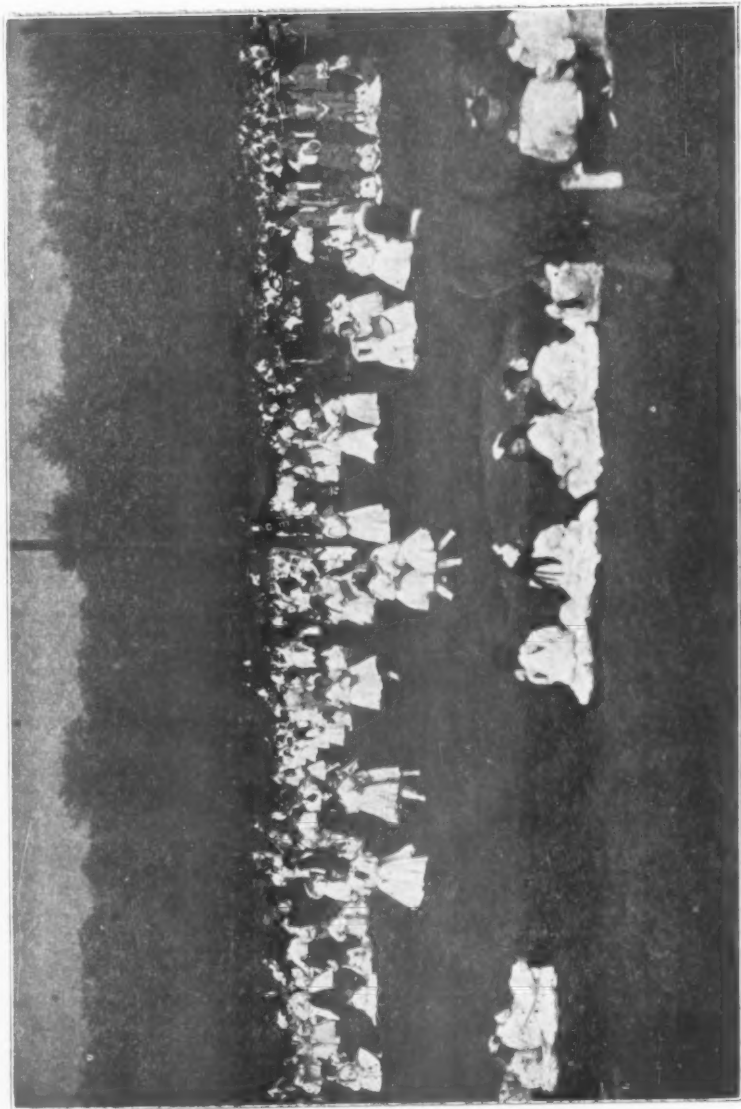
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EXHIBITION OF GAMES AND DANCING IN CENTRAL PARK



The Playground

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PLAY vs. CRIME

"In dealing with the problem of crime in youth, we shall make progress just in proportion as we appreciate the absurdity of limiting our remedies to the court, the hangman and the jailer.

"Our plea for public playgrounds is a plea for justice to the boy. We are literally crowding him off the earth. We have no right to deny him his heritage, but that is just what we are doing in nearly every large city in this country, and he is hitting back, and hitting hard, when he does not mean to, while we vaguely understand and stupidly punish him for crime. Why shouldn't he rebel? The amazing thing is that he is not worse than he is."

—JUDGE BENJAMIN B. LINDSAY.

NOTES

The Playground completed its first year with the month of March. A banquet edition (No. 13) with twenty thousand copies was issued for April with ten portraits, including those of Mrs. Humphry Ward, the Duchess of Marlborough, President Roosevelt, President Gulick, Mr. Robert W. de Forest.

Many important advance movements in cities throughout the United States are in progress. The Editor desires to give due recognition to the work and worker, in different cities. No. 15, the June number, will be devoted to Philadelphia; No. 17, to New York City, and No. 18, September, to the Second Annual Congress, New York City, September 8-12.

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GARDENING WITH THE SCHOOL CHILDREN OF WASHINGTON, D. C.

GARDENING has grown slowly but steadily in the schools of Washington; slowly on account of the usual lack of funds; steadily because its foundation was laid in the training school for teachers. Year by year a comparatively small number of teachers is added to the full corps, who are not garden experts, but who have been trained to see the value in the child's education of the contact with the soil, the showers, the sunshine and the plant from seed to harvest.

DECORATIVE SCHOOL GARDENS.

As far as the land is available, and it is wise to use it for such, every school has a garden—very unpretentious in most instances. The principals of buildings are instructed to have the gardens planted along the fences in the yards. This border is from two to four feet wide as space permits. Every school in the building is given a share of the border, no matter how small it is, for which the school is held responsible. Every teacher is urged to have every child feel he has a share in this garden by allowing him to put a bulb into the ground in the fall and a seed in the spring. By so doing an interest in public property is aroused. An opportunity is given to encourage the instinct of ownership and at the same time teach respect for the rights of others. An outdoor schoolroom is at hand where nature-study material may be gotten first hand. Children imitate so readily that the home garden is as-

sured because of the work done at school.

To enlarge somewhat on these thoughts: Each child counts it a privilege to spend a cent for a bulb to be planted at school. Throughout the city the teaching body is urged to emphasize his rights as an owner and so the bulb must be watched that no one appropriates it. While he is doing this, he must remember that other children and the neighbors have the same rights to their property, and so he must respect their rights as they do his. By repeated reference to this, we have practically broken up vandalism in some neighborhoods.

Few teachers know how to use the garden as an outdoor schoolroom. The work is as new to most of them as it is to the children, but by teachers' meetings, visits and suggestive lessons, together with the aid of the recent Normal School graduates, they are beginning to see in the garden a place to practically apply some of the book knowledge. Arithmetic, geography, nature study, language, art work, should use the garden much more than they do. This spring, in all Washington schoolrooms, simple experiments in germination and soil work are in operation to supplement the outdoor work.

HOME GARDENS.

The home garden is the result most to be desired and sought after as an outcome of the school work. The Board of Education grants the graded schools the privilege of buying seeds at a cent a package, after Cleveland's plan. A local seedsman furnishes the packets. As a result of the information gained at school and the desire aroused to

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WASHINGTON PLAY FARMS



1. Improving the School Lawn.
2. Individual Plots at the Blow School.
3. Guarding the Hyacinths During the Easter Holidays. Each Hyacinth Has an Owner in the School.—Franklin School.
4. Setting Out Lettuce.

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plant at home because it is being done at school, children's home gardens are springing up everywhere. Sixty per cent. of the children who planted at home last spring kept an active interest in their gardens during the summer. Some of the children profited financially by the home yard. A first-grade girl sold 62 cents worth of parsley from her cent package. A sixth-grade boy cleared eight dollars on his efforts. Many report the pleasure of fresh vegetables and flowers for table use. The gardening as outlined has embraced the entire graded school system.

COMMUNITY GARDENS.

An equally valuable effort, but one by which but 500 children have been benefited, is the cultivation of large areas by a body of children, each child having his own plot. As far as practical, this form has been confined to boys of the sixth grade as a form of manual training. The schools selected have come to the garden once a week during school hours for systematic garden lessons. Five such gardens were conducted last year. One of the most interesting ones is in a backyard in the neighborhood of a school where a class of sixth-grade boys raised \$35.12 worth of fresh vegetables during the summer. The largest is on the grounds of the Department of Agriculture. Acting upon the wise suggestion of the chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Dr. B. T. Galloway, the Secretary of Agriculture, has allowed the schools for two years the use of two and a half acres of land where several hundred children cultivate small plots during the spring and summer. About \$400 worth of vegetables were gathered from this

ground last season. When school closes volunteers continue. Absence from the garden two successive lesson days causes forfeiture of the plot. At the close of the season the Department of Agriculture awards certificates for industry and 90 per cent. attendance during the summer. Where space permits, as it does on the Department grounds, playground material has been added, so that after work play may come. A tether-ball pole, which the boys erected themselves, a volley ball, a croquet set and quoits are at their disposal. Play and work are a happy combination. May the time be not far distant when every playground will have a garden as part of its equipment, and these two movements so closely allied may be seen side by side. One of the most interesting classes of the last year's work was a class of boys from the ungraded school, mostly incorrigibles and truant players. There was some difficulty at first, but the last of the season showed that the time had not been ill spent in encouraging them to sincere systematic effort.

Until last year all of the gardening has been wholly dependent upon the Department of Agriculture, except for the teaching force. With this feeling of utter dependency, it was daring to have the movement embrace the entire school system. The work of the Department is almost entirely experimental. When it proves or disproves the value of an experiment it passes on to other problems, so at any time its support may be withdrawn. Last year Congress set aside one thousand dollars of the appropriation for schools to be used in school gardens, so to that amount the work's permanency

is assured. This is most fortunate, for the help of the Department will of necessity be withdrawn in another year, owing to the magnificent building operations in progress. The two and a half acres of land will probably be used for necessary buildings, and the greenhouse in which the students in the Normal School have been instructed stands directly in front of the new building and will be demolished to give place to a magnificent park. This has proved itself of such value, however, that there is not a shadow of a doubt but some method will be found for its continuance.

SUSAN B. SIPE.

PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS.

AN ATHLETIC PROBLEM AND ITS
RELATION TO ETHICAL ASPECTS
OF EVERY-DAY LIFE.

BY E. B. DEGROOT, CHICAGO,
*Director South Park Playgrounds
and Gymnasiums.*

THERE is an increasing tendency in all athletic team games to maximize the responsibility placed upon the official and to minimize the responsibility placed upon the player in the game.

By "responsibility" is meant the relation of the player to the force which impels his ethical actions in the progress of the game. Under present conditions, the force which impels right ethical action comes too much from the official and too little from the player. The *responsibility* for right action rests upon the official far more than it rests upon the player.

This is an athletic problem that is fundamental in its relations to good citizenship and one which we have

neglected to study seriously, or at least in a manner that has given results commensurate with its importance.

I may illustrate by referring to present conditions in a single popular game—basketball.

The Amateur Athletic Union's code of rules for this game has been experimented with for many years. Frequent changes have been made tending to produce a team game approximating perfection. But throughout all the years of modification of rules the burden of responsibility (the impelling force for right action) has been placed upon the officials and not upon the players. Violation of the laws of the code and unfair playing prevails as a matter of course unless the officials stop it by inflicting penalties. These penalties, and particularly the methods of applying them, do not affect the individual player, the team or the audience in a manner that creates respect for law and fair dealing as necessary factors in human society.

In recent years a code of inter-collegiate basketball rules has been devised. The expressed purpose of this code is to produce a "faster and more interesting game than is possible under the A. A. U. rules, a game where infractions of rules and penalties therefore occur infrequently." To work in harmony with the desire for this kind of game only one official is selected to rule as against two in the A. A. U. code. But the burden of responsibility for right action is increasingly placed upon the official in the inter-collegiate game. In fact, if the inter-collegiate rules are held in mind at all, the players ordinarily do not "let the right hand know

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what the left hand is doing," and the official must not take any rule for its full face value but must settle infractions of rules and disputes as he would endeavor to settle a fight between two of his best friends.

It seems to me that we should endeavor to reconstruct the laws of our popular team games pertaining to officials so that the impelling force for right action shall come more from the players and less from the officials, so that action in the game shall have a better relation to the concrete problems of good citizenship in every-day life. The present plan is not in harmony with the best thought concerning the psychology of play.

The following modification of basketball rules is urged as a step in this direction:

Let the officials be one, two or three *judges* and one *starter*, instead of a referee and an umpire as in the A. A. U. rules, or a referee as in the inter-collegiate code. Let the function of the starter be to *start* the game at the beginning of play, after a goal has been made, after a held ball, after out-of-bounds play or whenever the game has been stopped for any reason. Let the starter merely *start* the game as the referee does under present rules, but do not let him call fouls, indicate infractions of rules or inflict penalties.

Let the one, two or three judges take favorable positions for seeing the actions of all the players at all stages of the game. Eliminate the free-throw lanes and the free throw after a foul has been committed. When a foul is committed let the judge or judges mark a point against the team (not the individ-

ual) that committed the foul. This may be done with pad and pencil or with an indicator in either hand. If the judges are not perfectly familiar with the players, different and distinctive uniforms or sashes must be worn.

At the end of each period of play, add to the score already announced on the board as a result of baskets scored from open play, the number of points the judges have marked against the opposing team. If more than one judge marks, average the points marked by the two or three judges. If any player persists in intolerably rough play or ungentlemanly conduct, let the judges stop the game and rule the man out for the remainder of the period or entire remaining part of the game.

Other playing rules in either the A. A. U. or inter-collegiate code may be used practically as they are now. Thus the traditional *playing* rules are not disturbed, but the responsibility for right action is placed primarily and heavily upon the player. He must choose to do right because there is keen and silent recognition of his actions, the result of which will be recorded for or against his team publically at a later and effective moment. Under the present plan, if the player is caught fouling he is appraised of the particular kind of offense and is given a penalty at the time. If he fouls and is not caught, and he knows it, he is encouraged in his "successful dishonesty."

Under the present plan, players and coaches may attempt, with measurable results, any number of violations of playing rules. They know that the referee or umpire will stop the game and tell them

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just what their particular infractions of rules are. This act is really "coaching," as well as checking attempts at dishonesty. And if the opposing team has no one who is good at "tossing free throws," violations of rules will be frequent against that team. The case is analogous to the citizen who breaks the law knowing that only a money penalty will be imposed upon him, and that since he has plenty of money with which to pay fines he will not regard the law.

Under the plan proposed, coaches must justify their existence by their ability to teach men to avoid violating rules and to play fair, as well as to play well. Players must choose to do right because they will not be appraised of wrong action until it is too late to make such knowledge count for results.

The argument for a fast and more interesting game is fully met in the proposed plan. No time is taken out or consumed for free throws, indicating offenders and explaining interpretation of rules, etc. In fact, the game will be found so fast under this plan that three periods of play of fifteen minutes each with five minutes rest between the playing periods, will be found a better social and physiological arrangement than two halves of twenty minutes each.

The present plan of officials running about the floor after the players, arguing with them about interpretation of rules and the judgment of the official, is not only undignified, but the officials are not in the best position to see infractions of rules or to use their best judgment.

The plan of "judging" is not only more dignified, but more conducive to accurate work, the judging being done from an advantageous view-point and under calmer physical and mental conditions than are possible on the floor following the players.

The audience is never a factor in the official's decisions as is frequently the case under present conditions.

The above is merely a brief presentation of the proposition suggested. At a later date the writer will amplify more fully and will endeavor to indicate the application of the plan to baseball and football games. He will also give a review of the results of experiments that are being carried on in Chicago. It may be said at this time that this plan works well with teams that are composed of experienced players. Nothing is lost in "obedience to authority" and there is the desired exhibition of responsibility resting upon the player in the game.

VACATION ON THE STREETS

Before sailing for Europe or taking trips to the mountains or seaside resorts, friends of the children may well form the habit of giving each year something for the enjoyment of the children left to play in streets of the city. Two hundred dollars will maintain a worker for the summer or equip a vacant lot.

One hundred and fifty dollars will pay for a large kindergarten tent. One hundred dollars will enable the Association to begin work in immediate neighborhoods. Fifty dollars will provide for a camp tent by the sea, on the sound, up the river or in some rural district.

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FRAME-TEETERS AND SAND-BOX, BROAD STREET, SALEM.

PLAYGROUNDS IN SALEM.

WHAT public-spirited citizens under efficient leadership can do for the children of a city, was well illustrated in Salem last summer.

The Young Men's Christian Association furnished leadership and "know how," and a splendid committee was organized composed of leading citizens. In March, 1907, the first money was raised, by a widely advertised "Gym" exhibition given in the best local theatre. A little later a lecture by Jacob Riis aided by well-written newspaper articles made "Playgrounds" the talk of the town.

The balance of the money was raised by subscription in amounts from one to two hundred dollars, about \$2,500 being raised altogether.

Five places were selected by the committee. One on city land, one controlled by the Y. M. C. A., three on private property. The private

lots were loaned to the committee free of charge. These were located near the most congested parts of the city and within walking distance of every child.

Two directors were placed on each ground. These men were carefully selected and were all trained or experienced leaders in the work, seven of them being Springfield Training School men. This provision for efficient leadership was considered one of the chief factors in the success of the movement.

On July first the playgrounds opened with five vacant lots and ten enthusiastic leaders. Work and play began at once. The boys were set to work to clean up the grounds, etc. When they tired of the work, games and races were organized for them. Gradually new games and apparatus were added as the need grew. Each director was allowed to design apparatus suitable

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for his ground. This was built by local carpenters at a small outlay. Two of the grounds were on the harbor front and were provided with swimming places. Shower baths were added to the equipment of the other three. Thus in a short time five well-equipped playgrounds were running and doing a splendid work.

Junior and senior baseball leagues were organized. Hare and hound runs, hiking parties taken into the country, and many other good times were provided for the boys.

Profanity and cigarette smoking became almost lost arts.

At the close of the season apparently every one in the city had nothing but praise for the work done and hoped that it would be continued.

This year it is expected the city government will provide the funds and maintain the work so well begun last year.

G. S. MAXWELL,
Supervisor of Broad Street
Playground.

PLAYGROUND HAPPENINGS.

By LEE F. HANMER, FIELD SECRETARY.

On February 25th, a Playground Association was organized for Hamilton, Ontario. The plan is to get the City Council, Park Board, Board of Education, and separate school boards interested in this movement for the children. Mr. R. Tasker Steele was elected President, and a Committee on Constitution and By-laws was appointed.

In presenting the subject to the meeting, Mr. J. J. Kelso, Superintendent of Neglected Children, said: "There is nothing more important in the life of any community than that the children should have an opportunity to play. If there was more play I am satisfied that we would not have to do as much as we do to-day straightening out wretched homes and caring for children in reformatories. In these days we are losing much of the spirit of play. We are losing sight of the fact that man is an animal and requires a good deal of exercise. There has been a tendency in the direction of allowing our lives to become too prosaic and

commonplace. I think we should strive to get back to the lighter side. They say a laugh is as good as a whole bottle of medicine, and yet how few of us laugh. I believe the tendency of the age is becoming too solemn and dignified, and we should encourage the spirit of play more than we do to-day. I am speaking now more to the old than to the young.

"In Toronto we held a carnival, and it was a dismal failure because people were too solemn to enjoy themselves. I believe that for every time we do away with a saloon we should replace it with something to give place for more sociability. The young fellows do not get drunk because of their love for whiskey, but because they believe it is the way to have a good time. We should keep the idea before people that it is possible to be light-hearted, gay and have a good time without doing anything wrong.

"No child can be healthy without play. People are becoming im-

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pressed with the fact that if they want to look after children in the right way they must give them lots of play. The school curriculum has a tendency to crush out and make children old before they learn to be young. They worry their own little heads and worry their parents with questions that many adults could not answer. The feeling among the teachers is that the pupils must be rushed on. There seems to be an eagerness to educate and rush them into our universities, with the result that the universities are filled with children of sixteen and seventeen, instead of mature young men and women.

"I am always preaching happiness. If we cannot be happy ourselves, let us see that children are happy and we will get some of the reflex happiness ourselves."

On April 28th the Legislature of the State of Ohio passed a public park bill in which definite provision is made for the establishment, maintenance, and supervision of children's playgrounds. The measure provides for a referendum in case any City Council refuses to appropriate the funds necessary for carrying out the work.

A "Boys' City" will be conducted this summer in connection with the Winona Lake Assembly. The plan is to furnish an inexpensive outing for boys' clubs. The "school city" plan of government is worked out in an interesting way.

Judge Brown is the Director and Dr. J. C. Elsom, of the University of Wisconsin, has charge of the physical training and athletics.

The attendance on the Washington, D. C., playgrounds last year

was remarkable; the number of visits made by the children being 376,381. The average attendance on the municipal grounds was 222, and that of the school grounds was 169.

Chief of Police Clemmens, of Wheeling, W. Va., is a warm advocate of roof playgrounds on the school buildings. "These," he says, "should be as big as the schools themselves, and should be readily accessible from the streets, on all sides, as well as from the study rooms."

At a recent meeting of the Park Commission of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., it was decided that the commission would take charge of the playgrounds this year. The grounds will be open during the entire school vacation.

A lecture was given on March 13th for the purpose of raising funds to equip and maintain playgrounds in different parts of Wilmington, Del.

During the first three weeks the average daily attendance on the Marion playground, Wilmington, N. C., was between 75 and 100 children. This playground was bought and equipped by Mr. and Mrs. James Sprunt as a memorial to their deceased daughter.

In the report of the Park Commissioner of Worcester, Mass., Superintendent of Parks John H. Hemingway recommends that directors of child play be employed by the city in Crompton and Greenwood parks playgrounds. He says it would benefit the children morally, intellectually and physically.

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Historic Oakland Beach and the land around it, facing on Long Island Sound, are about to be acquired by the town of Rye, N. Y., for a public park and playground.

An effort will be made to have the campus of every school in Youngstown, O., converted into a public playground during the coming summer. The school authorities are in favor of the plan. The following petition was sent to the City Council of that city on March 21st: "The Woman's Club League of your city representing a membership of six hundred women; respectfully petition that provision be made the coming spring for playgrounds for the children of the city."

The Department of Playgrounds of Los Angeles, Cal., is beginning work on a \$50,000 municipal recreation center. Plans are now under way for a large increase in the public playgrounds during the coming season.

Dayton, O., has during the past year expended \$75,000 for purchasing and equipping its first public playground. A fine field house, with all modern improvements, is nearing completion, and will be ready for use during the coming season.

The Board of Education, Judge M. H. Hyland and others are interested to secure more playgrounds for the children of San Jose, Cal.

Forty students are being taught playground games in the University of Missouri under the direction of Prof. Hetherington and Miss Alden.

McKeesport, Pa., is to have a playground this summer if the suggestion of the Highways and Parks Committee of the Chamber of Commerce is carried out.

The City Council of Omaha has voted \$500 for the Playground Association, the money to be expended under a committee of the Council.

The W. C. T. U. of Akron, Ohio, believes that the prevention of law-breaking is better than cure, and that the establishment of public playgrounds would help in this direction. They are petitioning the City Council for a playground for next summer.

The Committee on Appropriations for Greater Pittsburg, Pa., has allowed for playground maintenance \$15,000 to the Allegheny Playground Association, \$33,000 to the Pittsburg Association. It has been the plan of the Board of Education of Pittsburg to turn over annually \$5,000 to the Playground Association for maintenance of vacation playgrounds.

The following article is taken from the *Newark News* of February 2, 1908:

"The benefits accruing to communities as the result of the establishment of playgrounds and recreation centers were dwelt upon in a lecture recently delivered by Sheriff Sommer in South Orange, and the concrete facts upon which that official based his findings were obtained in Newark. For instance, he declared that the establishment of the playground in South Canal Street in October last had already resulted in the breaking up of two notorious gangs of boys, who had

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been organized terrors of the neighborhood under the names of the "Coffee House Gang" and the "Forty Strong." In the estimation of the sheriff, who is especially well fitted to make a correct estimate, the elimination of these gangs was of itself worth all that the city had appropriated—\$5,000—for playgrounds, even though nothing else was accomplished in the spending of the money.

The last of February was tag day in Dallas, Texas. This was by proclamation of the mayor. Playing tag in this sense means being held up by some one authorized to collect money for the establishment of a playground, and having a tag pinned to your coat bearing the words, "I am tagged to help the children of Dallas." No one has to be "it" more than once, as those wearing a tag are immune from further solicitation. Of course, by afternoon no one wants to be seen in the streets without a tag. The total receipts of the Dallas tag day were \$4,205.85.

Philadelphia, Pa., has gotten hold of the "tag day" idea. Plans are now under way to make May 20th tag day for the children of the public schools. They hope to be able to awaken the official interest of the city.

The Exhibit of the Playground Association at the Congress of Mother's held at Washington, D. C., proved interesting to a very large number of people.

More than 41,000 people visited the Exhibit of Congestion of Population held in New York City from

March 9th to 29th. The model of the Playground Association was in a conspicuous place, and many people showed their interest by asking for further information regarding playgrounds.

The Birmingham Playground and Athletic League held a meeting on March 18th, at which a constitution and by-laws were adopted, an active membership enrolled and other steps taken to further the playground movement. It was decided to hold the first meet on May 1st, and the school authorities have been asked to dismiss the children at noon, so that they may attend.

If the efforts of the Board of Trade count for anything, Bloomfield, N. J., will have a playground on the lawlands where the old Wat-sessing Lake used to be.

The plan of Dr. Harrington, of Boston, Mass., has been adopted. Its purposes are: First, to develop the school yard and school building as the center of play for the younger children; second, to provide local playgrounds for the older boys and girls; third, to provide athletic fields for the high school boys; fourth, to furnish instructors, supervisors and teachers in athletics, sports, games and play indulged in by pupils of the public schools.

Rev. M. A. Hilderbrand, of Chattanooga, Tenn., has been given \$100 to equip a vacant lot with playground apparatus. The city is also considering a \$1,000,000 park system.

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"The city authorities of Chicago, Ill., have not only provided organization and equipment for their playgrounds, but they have also provided the proper kind of workers to direct them." (From the *Chicago Post*, April 1st).

Mayor Johnson, of Cleveland, Ohio, has appointed a commission to supervise the playground system throughout the city. Thus far \$60,000 has been expended for playgrounds.

The Davenport, Iowa, School Board has appointed a committee to confer with the authorities to secure a playground for each section of the city.

Mayor Speer of Denver, Colo., is the children's friend. In winter he sees to it that they get skating ponds; in summer he provides playgrounds. This year \$10,000 has been set aside for the latter purpose.

The twenty-fifth annual report of the Board of Park Commissioners of Minneapolis has the following to say about playgrounds: "It is but recently that playgrounds have been established in our parks. These have proven very popular. It will be noted that the report of the supervisor of playgrounds, Mr. Booth, states that nearly one thousand children visited and used the playground equipment in a period of twelve weeks during the past season. Our lack of playgrounds, is in my opinion, the other important respect in which our park system is still deficient. I believe that squares of ground should be purchased in the more thickly peopled

sections of our city, of course outside the business district, for the benefit of those children who are not able to frequently visit our parks. Such squares while affording breathing spaces for the neighborhood, should be given over largely for the use of the children and a feature be made of the playgrounds and and gymnastic apparatus. I know of no way in which the city can expend its park money more worthily or in a way that would give as good returns from the standpoint of good morals and good health, than the establishment of such park squares."

In New York City the vacation playgrounds cost the city \$1.40 for each pupil; the evening roof playgrounds, 71 cents for each pupil.

A new ferry terminal is to be erected at South Ferry. The plans provide for a roof playground and recreation pier, covered with glass, affording an extensive breathing space, overlooking the East River and the bay.

The town of North Andover, Mass., was presented with a playground by the Davis & Turber Co., with the provision that if the ground is ever abandoned for the purpose tendered, it shall revert to the original owners.

The necessity of playgrounds was the topic discussed at the meeting of the Schoolmaster's Club on March 20th, at Omaha, Neb. Superintendent Davidson, of the city schools, deplored the fact that Nebraska cities were behind most cities of the country in this respect. On April 25th he was elected President of the Omaha Playground Association.

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A committee has been appointed to consider the proposition of turning of Tournament Park, Pasadena, Cal., into a public playground.

The children of Philadelphia are to have 50 school playgrounds. This was decided upon at the meeting of the Board of Education's Committee on Special Schools held on April 8th.

Plans for the first of the playgrounds of Pottstown, Pa., have been finished and the work will be pushed to get it in shape for the coming season.

The School Committee of Boston, Mass., has voted to spend \$58,000 on playgrounds. In addition to this the Park Department has turned over its playground appropriation of \$25,000 to the school authorities.

Mayor R. D. Haven of Duluth, Minn., is taking an active interest in the playground movement. "There may be a number of spots which may be obtained at reasonable cost now. Later these will be unavailable, and it is therefore important that this movement should be started at once." He goes on to say, "It is not intended that the parks should be alone for beautifying the city. I think there should be no 'keep off the grass' signs on the grounds. The health of the children must be preserved at any cost, and the time will come when it will be absolutely necessary to furnish playgrounds for the children, where they can enjoy the fresh air and sunshine without restrictions."

The Public Playgrounds Committee of the Commercial Club of

East St. Louis, Mo., secured a nucleus of \$750 for their playground fund by selling lapel buttons.

A committee has been appointed to look over the sites for a playground for the N. B. Aldrich School, of Fall River, Mass.

One of the clubs of Fort Worth, Texas, has adopted the following as their slogan: "A park and a playground for every ward in Fort Worth."

The School Board of Harrisburg, Pa., has decided to purchase the ground in the rear of the Foreney School building for use as a public playground.

There is good prospect of a public playground being established in Jacksonville, Fla., in the Springfield Park.

The Hudson City folk of Jersey City, N. J., are endeavoring to induce the Street and Water Board to build a shelter in the Reservoir playground.

A public playground and an athletic field for school children are the proposed improvements planned by the Park Board of Kansas City, Mo., for Spring Valley Park.

Chairman Hudson of the Park Board is greatly interested in developing a complete system of playgrounds and public baths for the city.

A Playgrounds Association is to be organized in Knoxville, Tenn.

The Park Commissioners of Lowell, Mass., are making ar-

—THE PLAYGROUND

rangements for the coming playground season. A new playground will be opened near the Lincoln School.

The Middletown, Conn., Improvement Association established a playground during 1907. It was so successful that it was decided to reopen the ground this year.

Plans are now under way for the improvement of Powderhorn Park, Minneapolis, Minn., which will make it the most attractive in the State from a scenic point of view. The residents of Linden Hills unanimously endorsed the proposition of securing additional land for the Lake Harriet School for a public playground.

Citizens and delegates from the various organizations of Mt. Vernon, N. Y., held a meeting under the auspices of the Civic Club, for the purpose of providing the city with parks and playgrounds. Resolutions were passed petitioning the Common Council to appropriate \$10,000 and \$15,000, respectively, for the establishment and maintenance of parks and athletic fields for the first year.

The Ladies' Civic Betterment Club, of Roanoke, Va., is making an active campaign to provide playgrounds for the children of the various sections of the city. It is their plan to devote some of their surplus to fit up playgrounds and thus furnish employment to skilled workers.

The following is taken from the report of the Salem, Mass., Committee on Playgrounds: "The value of playgrounds has been dem-

onstrated to rest with the directors. If the city has furnished grounds, installed swings, out-door gymnasium apparatus, and baths, and left them unsupervised for free use, instead of a constantly increasing crowd of happy children, each getting his rightful share of the various privileges, and all learning daily lessons in fair play, consideration for property rights, unselfishness and loyalty, the grounds would have been monopolized by the strongest gangs of boys in their respective neighborhoods, giving daily lessons in all that the children should not be taught. Supervision not only multiplies the attendance at the playground, but makes it a school of the social virtues."

A Playgrounds Association was formed on February 27th in San Antonio, Tex., for the purpose of securing playgrounds for the children of the crowded districts of the city.

An industrious effort is being made by the Woman's Committee of the Civic Art Association to establish a system of small parks and playgrounds throughout the city for the benefit of small children of San Diego, Cal.

The first playground of Syracuse, N. Y., is to be established at the Frazer School. Landscape Architect, E. Kessler, of Kansas City, has been asked to submit a plan to the Park Commission.

San Francisco, Cal., expects to have two playgrounds ready for use during the coming season. The Mayor has appointed a Playground Commission.

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